



# Arizona Department of Agriculture

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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**RELEASE DATE:** March 6, 2007

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### **Governor Announces Distribution of 2.4 Million in Grants to Livestock Producers**

(Phoenix, AZ) – Governor Janet Napolitano today announced that checks are being sent out to 603 Arizona livestock producers who were adversely impacted by the severe drought in 2006. In August 2006, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) granted the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA) more than \$2.4 million to distribute through the 2006 Livestock Assistance Grant Program.

“This award will ensure that the livestock industry will continue to be viable and competitive in Arizona for years to come,” Governor Napolitano said. “This livestock assistance will help producers recover from the increased operating costs associated with the drought last year.”

Through the grant application process, Arizona livestock owners submitted close to 9.9 million dollars in certified expenses to the Arizona Department of Agriculture due to the drought. The amount of money a livestock owner receives is based upon the expenses he or she incurred due to the drought and the number of animal units owned. The maximum award is \$10,000 per producer. Expenses typically included the increased costs for supplemental feed, relocating livestock, increased feed transportation costs, and emergency water supply needs.

“Ranchers around the state were hit hard with increased expenses due to the drought in 2006,” ADA Director Donald Butler said. “This grant will help ranchers preserve their way of life.”

The USDA selected 13 Arizona counties for the program, using the U.S. Drought Monitors from March 9, 2006 to August 31, 2006 as the basis for the selection. The money has been allocated to beef cattle and sheep producers in Apache, Cochise, Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Maricopa, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai and Yuma Counties.

Producers will be receiving their livestock assistance checks in the next three to six weeks.

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